

Monthly Report

January 1-31

NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

January 1-14. Stay in the USA for the renewal of my Re-entry Permit.

In Washington the American Hungarian Federation and the representative of the Hungarian Reformed Church.

January 15-17. Visited ~~Mr. Baccarger~~, representative of the ~~Kuwaitian~~ ~~emigration~~ FEO in Europe, and representatives of the Hungarian emigration.

January 21. Talk in the Ministry for Press and Information of the Government concerning questions of the Hungarian refugees.

January 22. Visit in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Baron Unger-Sternberg, chief of department for the Danubian States). Long conversation about Hungarian problems.

January 24. Visit in Köln, meeting with General Sonyi, representative of the Hungarian Refugee Office for North Germany and Mr. Junky, representative of a youth organization.

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January 25. Visit to Dr. Wegmann, secretary-general for Foreign Affairs and Defense of the Upper House.

Lunch with Baron Manteuffel-Soege, M.P., President of the Association of German Refugees. Talks about ACEN and other actual political questions.

January 26. Tea at my house for leading officials of the Office for Press and Information of the Government.

January 27. Dinner in my home for Prof. K. Varga, commendatore of the Order of St. John.

January 29. Visit to Mr. Rohrholt, High Commissioner for Refugees in Germany. We talked over the Hungarian refugee questions in connection of the new refugees.

January 31. Attended the session in Parliament about Foreign Affairs.

Fly to Berlin to the meeting of the European Union.

2./ The New Emigration in Germany

More than 11,000 Hungarian refugees have found new homes in West Germany since November 1, 1956. Among them about 800 students. Approximately another four thousand are expected to come in the near future according to present official plans. This is not an unusual event for a country where every fifth person is refugee, and where more than 300,000 persons annually seek safety.

For the past two months gifts and contributions for Hungary and its refugees have poured into collecting centres from every corner of West Germany. Government offices and public agencies have been deluged with letters offering homes to the refugees. Often these letters come from people who are themselves refugees.

Voluntary emergency action by industry, industrial organizations and trade schools had lined up countless job and training opportunities for the refugees before the first one arrived. Processing through reception camps moved so swiftly that as of today nearly two-thirds of the 11,000 refugees are already at work or in training and established in new homes. The remainder are expected to be similarly placed in the near future. They are entitled to the same social insurance and pension rights as all German citizens.

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The Red Cross is organizing specialized services to promote the speedy integration of the refugees into German life. Hungarian language newspapers are being set up for those who do not read German. German language classes have been organized and the Junior Red Cross is developing a special friendship program for Hungarian children. In addition, the International Tracing Service of the Red Cross has established a registration and information service to keep the new arrivals in touch with friends and relatives in Hungary.

Finally I want to mention that about 60% of the contributions collected for Hungary in Europe was given by Germany.

There are at present about 500 refugees in Germany who wish to return to Hungary. It is interesting to note, that the Hungarian Government is investigating each case by the Hungarian Legation in Vienna and is accepting only a small number of refugees chiefly skilled workers and miners. The German Ministry for Foreign Affairs declared that the authorities gave free way to everybody, who has the intention to repatriate to Hungary.

3./ The Revolutionary Committee in Strassburg

Returned from New York to Europe I tried to find out the reaction concerning this Committee. In Paris I had talks with three members of this Committee (Mr. P. Auer, A. Rakcsányi and G. Osaváth, the latter representing the youth), with well informed Hungarians and also with French gentlemen who are interested in this Committee. I paid also my visit to Mr. Maccarger. In Bonn I contacted some Hungarians who worked with the Revolutionary Council in Budapest, finally M.P.'s of the German Parliament. One of these M.P.'s attended the meeting of the Hungarian Committee in Strassburg.

I would like to sum up my impressions as follows:

Strassburg has been well chosen for setting up this Committee because the Council of Europe held its meeting there at the same time, thus all European nations (15) were represented. So the Committee had the possibility to contact prominent politicians and to find the way to the Council through them. As the Hungarian revolution is highly estimated by all European countries

it was not difficult to win a great part of these personalities for their cause. Therefore the Committee got a certain moral help and is trying to get some financial aid from these countries. Without this help the organization would not be able to work in the future. As I was told, there were chiefly French sources which helped the Committee until now.

One of the aims of the Committee is to be attached to the European Council in Strassburg as was Austria before having been accepted as member of this Council. Mr. Raksányi, secretary-general of the Committee, told me in Paris that there will be difficulties to attain this aim because the Statutes of the Council have to be changed for this purpose.

In other words it was a good start but I was told as well in Paris from French sources as in Bonn from German M.P.'s that they were surprised about the composition of the Committee having members who collaborated with the Communists in Hungary. They all underlined the necessity that both emigrations should be represented in one Committee otherwise it would be difficult to deal with the Hungarian problems. Everybody with whom I talked about this question highly estimates the outstanding importance of the Hungarian revolution in which one part of the new emigration was involved but is also aware of the great value of the work carried out by the first emigration. It was especially Countess E. Finkenstein, M.P. in Bonn and Strassburg, who is charged to deal with the Hungarian problem - who asked me intensively to find an adequate solution for the common work between the old and new emigration.

4./ Radio Free Europe

As I reported in my former Monthly Reports the RFE has been accused, of German side, of having made rash promises which led to the outbreak of the Hungarian uprising, and more particularly of having promised the insurgents armed forces from the West.

As I am informed by a M.P. the result of the investigation has been submitted to Parliament. Chancellor Adenauer,

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in his last press-conference spoke favourably about RFE, so this question seems to be settled. I am also informed that my report which I submitted in this case to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been cited in the report to Parliament.

5./ Germany and East Europe

Since the events in Hungary, Germany is more and more interested in the East European question and it is looking forward with interest to the establishment of the ACEN Delegation in Bonn.

It is the same reason which is influencing German politicians to strive to get Germany to be accepted as member of ACEN or at least as other organizations are associated to it. They hope to find closer contact to the East European countries through ACEN. I reported about this question directly to Mr. Masens, the chairman of ACEN.

Here I want to mention the question of the planned organization of the "East European Front". I talked this question over again with the gentlemen who took the initiative to start this idea. They are very eager to do this work with the aim to unite the refugees of the different East European countries for the common cause. They think that the closer the contact of these groups is, the more it would be able to help the refugees in their work for their countries by lectures, information, propaganda, etc.

Chancellor Adenauer and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. von Brentano, both underlined in their recently held speeches about foreign policy, the heroic struggle of Hungary in the last months, condemning at the same time the brutal intervention of Soviet Russia. Both politicians are convinced that the events in Hungary opened the eyes of everybody in the whole world about Soviet Russia. On the other side they think, Russia is decided to do all that is in her power to avoid the dissolution of the Eastern Block of the Satellite countries. Germany must be careful in handling the Eastern problems.

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I finally want to mention the conclusion of a lecture held by Prof. Dr. ~~W. Grewe~~, chief of department in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, saying: the recent events in East Europe make it probable that the maintenance of the Soviet Satellite-System merely by armed forces, will be untenable on the long run.

In next days a special session for external questions will take place in Parliament.

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